

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 03642 310601Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-08 COM-02
TRSY-02 /061 W
-----310611Z 080733 /20

O P 310508Z MAR 77
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4322
INFO USLO PEKING PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 3642

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR SHUM CH
SUBJECT: FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW PLANS CHINESE DISSIDENT
REPORT

1. FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW CORRESPONDENT PETER WEINTRAUB
RECENTLY APPROACHED CONGEN WITH A LETTER RECEIVED FROM SHANGHAI
REQUESTING THAT THE FEER TRANSMIT A HUMAN RIGHTS APPEAL TO
PRESIDENT CARTER. THE LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE COVERING
LETTER HAD BEEN MAILED IN ONE OF THE FEER'S SELF-ADDRESSED
ENVELOPES, ADDRESSED TO THE SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT. IT WAS
SIGNED WITH AN OBVIOUS PSEUDONYM (HUNG YAN-CHIH) AND POSTMARKED
SHANGHAI. FEER WAS UNCERTAIN OF THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE LETTER
AND CAME TO THE CONGEN FOR ADVICE, BUT WE WERE UNABLE TO PROVIDE
A FIRM OPINION ON WHETHER OR NOT THE LETTER WAS GENUINE OR A
PLANT. WE HAVE NOW LEARNED THAT THE FEER PLANS TO REPORT THE
LETTER AS A HUMAN RIGHTS APPEAL TO PRESIDENT CARTER.

2. THE LETTER IS AN UNQUALIFIED DENUNCIATION OF THE COMMUNIST
SYSTEM IN CHINA, DESCRIBING IT AS A "HELL ON EARTH". IT
IS OBVIOUSLY WRITTEN BY AN INTELLECTUAL AND REFERES TO
UNIVERSITY GRADUATES BEING SENT TO THE COUNTRYSIDE IN DISTANT
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PROVINCES WHERE THEY CANNOT UTILIZE THEIR EDUCATION. THE
WRITER INDICATES THAT HE IS AWARE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S
MEETING WITH SOVIET DISSIDENT SAKHAROV AND QUOTES THE
PRESIDENT'S MARCH 1 STATEMENT ON THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO
HUMAN RIGHTS. THE LETTER CONCLUDES WITH AN APPEAL TO THE

PRESIDENT NOT TO FORGET "THE SUFFERING OF THE 800 MILLION PEOPLE ON THE CHINESE MAINLAND" AND TO "SUPPORT US WITH THE SAME COMMITMENT YOU GAVE THE SOVIET HUMAN RIGHTS LEADER".

3. ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT MAKE A DEFINATE JUDGEMENT ON THE LETTER'S AUTHENTICITY, THERE IS GOOD REASON FOR CAUTION. THE ROC USED THIS GAMBIT BEFORE, IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE 1972 NIXON TRIP, EMPLOYING PRC POSTAGE STAMPS AND AUTHENTIC-LOOKING CANCELLATIONS. FUTHERMORE, THE WRITER REFERS THROUGHOUT HIS LETTER TO THE "CHINA MAINLAND", A TERM RARELY USED IN THE PRC. FINALLY, THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IS AN IDEAL WEAPON FOR TAIPEI IN ITS EFFORTS TO ERECT ROADBLOCKS IN THE U.S.-PRC NORMALIZATION PROCESS.

4. CONGEN MARCH 31 RECEIVED INQUIRY FROM CBS AND THE NEW YORK TIMES CONCERNING THE PLANNED, FEER ARTICLE, AND NYT AT

LEAST PLANS TO REPORT IT. WE ARE FURNISHING A COPY OF THE LETTER TO EA/PRCM.
CROSS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE, DISSIDENT FACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977034/aaaaacsu.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b0b2d4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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